

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:
a processor;
a port to which an input device is coupled;
a firmware memory in which software to support the input device resides; and
a switch to cause the software to support the input device to be loaded if the switch is pressed at a time when the apparatus is turned off and is held for at least a predetermined period of time.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch is the power switch of the apparatus.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the computer also runs setup software residing in the firmware memory if the switch is pressed at a time when the apparatus is turned off and is held for at least a predetermined period of time.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined period of time is 3 seconds.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined period of time is adjustable.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the port to which the input device is coupled is a universal serial bus port.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the input device is a keyboard.
8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the port to which the input device is coupled is a keyboard port.
9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the input device is a keyboard.
10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a computer system.
11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is an audio/visual entertainment appliance.
12. A method, comprising:
 - detecting the pressing of a switch on an electronic device when the electronic device is turned off;
 - measuring the length of time for which the switch was pressed to differentiate between whether the switch was pressed or was pressed and held;
 - loading software to support an input device coupled to a port on the electronic device if the switch was pressed and held.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the switch is the power switch of the electronic device.
14. The method of claim 12, wherein the electronic device is a computer system.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising running setup software if the switch was pressed and held.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein a predetermined period of time of 3 seconds is used to differentiate between whether the switch was pressed or was pressed and held.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein an adjustable predetermined period of time is used to differentiate between whether the switch was pressed or was pressed and held.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein the port to which the input device is coupled is a universal serial bus port.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the input device is a keyboard.

20. An apparatus comprising:
a processor;
a firmware memory in which setup software resides; and
a switch to cause the setup software to configure the apparatus to be loaded and run if the switch is pressed at a time when the apparatus is turned off and is held for at least a predetermined period of time.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the switch is the power switch of the apparatus.

22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the predetermined period of time is 3 seconds.

23. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the predetermined period of time is adjustable.

24. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the apparatus is a computer system.

25. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the apparatus is an audio/visual entertainment appliance.

26. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processor of an electronic device, causes the processor to:

- detect the pressing of a switch on the electronic device when the electronic device is turned off;
- measuring the length of time for which the switch was pressed to differentiate between whether the switch was pressed or was pressed and held;
- loading and enabling support for an input device coupled to a port on the electronic device if the switch was pressed and held.

27. The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the switch is the power switch of the electronic device.

28. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processor of an electronic device, causes the processor to:

detect the pressing of a switch on the electronic device when the electronic device is turned off;

measuring the length of time for which the switch was pressed to differentiate between whether the switch was pressed or was pressed and held;

loading and enabling setup software to configure the electronic device if the switch was pressed and held.

29. The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the switch is the power switch of the electronic device.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the electronic device is a computer.